



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

809 Center Street, Room 201, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5160 •

www.cityofsantacruz.com/publicworks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts:

[Ralph Dimarucut](#) (831) 420-5017

[Janice Bisgaard](#) (831) 420-5166

Graphics below

City Sanitation Protocol to Reduce Contamination during COVID-19 Outbreak

SANTA CRUZ — With need to reduce contamination in light of the coronavirus, the City of Santa Cruz advises the community of important changes and practices related to sanitation protocol. Increased trash pickups and best practices will help to limit contamination during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Trash Pickups - The City advises residents that they may place an extra bag of trash on top of, or next to, their garbage bins for pick up at no extra cost through April 10. The blue and green carts should only be used for recycling and yard waste. Personal hygiene products like face masks, tissues and paper towels should never be placed in blue recycling bins.

As households may be purchasing a higher volume of packaged goods at this time, residents are advised to use extra care when deciding what to put in the recycle bin. Recycling questions are easily answered through the 'What Goes Where' guide available on mobile phone and City website: www.cityofsantacruz.com/recycleright.

Residents with need to temporarily increase their level of garbage service, should call customer service at (831) 420-5220.

Think Before You Flush - Like sanitation crews, City of Santa Cruz wastewater staff are at work to maintain essential operations. Unfortunately, wastewater crews have been finding so-called "biodegradable" or "flushable" products in the City sewer system. These products include make-up removal pads, cleaning wipes, baby wipes and adult moist wipes. These "flushable" wipes are the biggest problem for sewer backups. Even if the package says "flushable," they should never be flushed — they belong in the trash.

So called "flushable" feminine products, "flushable" diaper liners and plastic dog waste bags touted as "biodegradable" and "flushable" are also frequently found clogging the sewer system. Their labeling is also incorrect as there are no "biodegradable" or "flushable" wipes, bags, or

cloths acceptable in a sewer system. These products do not break down as bathroom tissue is designed to do. Paper towels and cloth diapers cause problems in residential and main sewer lines as well.

The community is advised to avoid plumbing problems by throwing all of these items in the trash. More information is available at www.cityofsantacruz.com.

Up-to-date information on the City's operations and response to COVID-19 can be found at www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus.

Graphics:

Think Before You Flush

Simple Recycle Guide

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